



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Peggy A. West, 12th District

Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee

Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs, 10th District

Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

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SUPERVISORS REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR BHD ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. John Chianelli has done admirable job serving Mental Health clients

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisors Elizabeth Coggs and Peggy West are reaffirming their support for Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Administrator John Chianelli. They believe the State's continued underfunding of mental health programs have been detrimental to Milwaukee County's clients.

"Mr. John Chianelli has served as BHD Administrator since 2008. During his tenure, Mr. Chianelli has always served dual roles and, at one point, led the County's Health Programs, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP), in addition to BHD. GAMP was rolled into BadgerCare and the 2010 Budget merged EMS with BHD to unite his duties, but he is still performing both of those roles," said Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs, who chaired the Health and Human Needs Committee from 2004-2008. "Mr. Chianelli has been a champion for Mental Health despite repeated State Medicaid program cuts that have forced him to cut service in mental health services other than patient care units. Due to this lack of State funding, BHD ran a \$3.2 million deficit in 2009 and will begin reporting deficits in 2010 at our May Finance & Audit Committee meeting. This lack of State funding makes it extremely difficult for Milwaukee County to continue to provide the variety of services needed to prevent recurring client visits to our Mental Health Complex."

Accomplishments achieved under the direction of Mr. Chianelli include eliminating wait time for law enforcement to access Psychiatric Crisis Services, reducing overcrowding within Acute Adult Inpatient Units, returning the Inpatient Hospital to its licensed bed capacity of 96 and decreasing departmental overtime by 50%, saving more than \$1.2 million. In addition, 2-year State certification was achieved without citation for Day Treatment, Community Support Program (CSP) and Crisis Services. Both Supervisors are proud to report that Wraparound Milwaukee made tremendous gains in 2009, was awarded the "Best Innovation in American Government" award by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and expanded its programming in MPS.

"Mr. Chianelli's commitment to his staff and Milwaukee County's mental health clients is unwavering," said Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy West, Chairwoman of the Health and Human Needs Committee. "Under Mr. Chianelli's leadership, BHD was awarded \$3.8 million in SAMSHA Grants for special adult populations including homeless, offender reentry and drug court. The successful pursuit of these grants proves the commitment Mr. Chianelli has to treating populations that are difficult to serve."

"Mr. John Chianelli has worked tirelessly to promote safe and effective treatment for Milwaukee County Mental Health Consumers, prompting the Medical Staff Executive Committee, the BHD Division Leadership and Management Team, and the Adult Community Services Branch of BHD to all contact the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and voice their support, in writing, for their leader," both Supervisors added.

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